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EXPERTS SAY KEEP THE  
STAFF SOIRÉE (page 16)



**PAGE  
DEFENDS HER  
STANCE  
ON BIOSOLIDS**

{page 2}



HALIFAX

**metro**®

Monday, December 6, 2010  
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

**Flash?** Not needed



► A woman takes a picture of herself and her family during the annual Dartmouth Christmas tree lighting ceremony last night.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

## The smiles are shining brightly

There was a little rain last night but that didn't stop hundreds of people from heading down to Sullivan's Pond to take in the festivities at the annual Dartmouth Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

## Katy Perry salutes troops

Divas pay homage to military  
men and women {page 8}

## Gulf takes heat on terror funds

Leaked files show balancing act  
with militants {page 4}

# No arrests in latest homicide

► Friday's shooting 11th homicide investigated in HRM this year ► Victim known to police, had two charges of attempted murder dropped against him earlier this year



ALEX  
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**Homicide**  
the man shot dead in Spryfield late last week.

But few further details on that shooting — one of two on Friday night — were available yesterday.

The victim in the Spryfield shooting has been identified Brandon Lewis Hatcher, 20, of Halifax.

Police were called to the 100 block of Lavender Walk just after 8:30 p.m. on Friday, after receiving reports of an injured man. They found Hatcher suffering from a gunshot wound. He was transported to hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries.

An autopsy was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, but police did not wait for its completion before ruling Hatcher's death a homicide.

Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmer confirmed last night that the autopsy

**"Major Crimes is still investigating, and we haven't received an update on that file."**

HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE STAFF SGT. DERRICK BOYD

had been performed, but he had not yet received the results.

Hatcher's death came just hours after another man appeared at the QEII Health Sciences Centre suffering from a gunshot wound. The 22-year-old's name has not been released, and his injuries do not appear to be life threatening.

According to Palmeto, there was nothing to indicate that the two shootings were related, although police continue to investigate.

Police have yet to pinpoint exactly where the 22-year-old was shot, but it is believed it was also in the Spryfield area.

No arrests have been made in either shooting. Police are encouraging anyone with information to contact them or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

**ShoppingUnderTheStars.ca**  
Friday, December 10th

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1  
news

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## C.B. court will expedite abuse victims' legal ordeals

A court will be created in Cape Breton to deal with cases of domestic violence.

The court will operate as a pilot program and be modelled on similar courts in other areas of the country.

Justice Minister Ross Landry said on Friday the Sydney-based court would cost about \$1 million to set up and \$800,000 to run each year.

Landry could not say when it would open.

Dan MacRury, the chief prosecutor for the Cape Breton region, said the court would provide support services to help victims navigate the justice system and include programs aimed at changing the behaviour of abusers.

He said it's vital to get needed supports to people faster in order to speed up the justice process.

"One of the things we see with domestic violence cases is that they take a

long period of time, and I believe that this program will assist that," said MacRury.

Premier Darrell Dexter said his goal is also to help victims beyond the courts.

"What happens from there is that you move directly into the programing that is designed to assist you, whether that's safety planning or any of the services that are required," said Dexter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Remains may belong to long-missing biker

Human remains have been found in an area where Nova Scotia RCMP have been searching for clues to the disappearance of a former Hells Angels biker.

The RCMP said the unidentified remains were found yesterday afternoon at a property on Hiram Lynds Road near Truro.

The Mounties have been searching the site since Wednesday in an ongoing investigation into the disappearance of Randy

Mersereau.

He was last seen on Oct. 31, 1999, and police believe he was murdered but his body has never been found.

A Truro-area man — 43-year-old Gerald MacCabe of Salmon River — was charged last Monday with accessory after the fact to murder.

The Mounties are working with the medical examiner's officer to identify the remains found.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Page takes 'common sense' approach to biosolids debate

► Several North American cities including Houston, Milwaukee, Toronto and Calgary have implemented systems that turn sewage into biosolids

Hollywood star Ellen Page — a Halifax native and environmental activist — is taking heat for her stance against the use of biosolids.

"I'm always getting that, 'Oh, look at the young actress. She's not a scientist, blah, blah, blah,'" Page said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles.

"Of course I'm not a scientist but I'm allowed to have common sense and care about the planet," she said, adding that Halifax is still her primary residence.

Page, who was nominated for an Oscar award, says she has no desire to create drama or make anyone look bad but she does have concerns about

**"It's taking all the waste of our current society with its sickness and toxicity. That's what they're treating in a very short amount of time and what they are saying is safe. And, quite frankly, I don't believe it."**

ELLEN PAGE

sewage sludge, even after it is treated.

Rob Sampson, president of N-Viro, the company

taking the sludge from the city's sewage treatment plants and processing it into usable compost, said he wishes people would tone down the rhetoric and examine the facts.

"You've got to consider that this isn't coming right out of the toilet and into the field. It's being treated at the sewage plant and our plant," he said of the operation in an industrial park near the Halifax airport.

The company uses alkaline waste products from coal-fired power plants and the cement and lime industries to stabilize organic waste through pasteurization and disinfection.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► A debate about human waste in Halifax has spewed a controversy that has drawn Hollywood star Ellen Page, a native of Halifax, into the fray.

## Driver cited for unsafe backup

Police have issued a ticket to the driver of an SUV that pinned a pedestrian between the vehicle and a Spring Garden Road business on Friday afternoon.

Just before 4 p.m., the driver of a dark grey SUV lost control of her vehicle while attempting to back into a parking spot near 5491 Spring Garden Rd.

The vehicle struck a 19-year-old woman, pinning her against the building.

### Appeal for tips

Police are asking anyone with information on the incident to contact them at 490-5016 or anonymously through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

She was taken to the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre with serious — but not life-threat-

ening — injuries.

The building, which houses Furs and Leathers by Seymour, was also significantly damaged.

The driver, a 42-year-old Ontario woman, was issued a ticket for backing up when it was not safe to do so. But police have not ruled out additional charges, and are urging witnesses to contact them.

● ALEX ROUILIER

### News in brief

#### 93 years since the blast

**CEREMONY.** This morning marks the 93rd anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.

A ceremony will be held from 8:50 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. at the Fort Needham Hill Bell Tower to remember the lives lost and disrupted by the

explosion in 1917.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

#### Holiday charity cleans up

**CHARITY.** Maritimers gave over \$700,000 to the Christmas Daddies Telethon yesterday.

The amount raised was \$710,189, with the bulk coming from Mainland Nova Scotia. The donations will bring Christmas to more than 15,000 kids. ● METRO





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# Saudis lax on terror cash: Docs

► Leaks say Taliban gets more funding from Gulf donors than drug trade ► Officials sluggish in cracking down

## WIKI LEAKS



Saudi Arabia has made "important progress" in aggressively trying to curtail the flow of funds to terrorist groups, but the oil rich kingdom and its Gulf Arab neighbours still remain major sources of financing for militant movements like al-Qaida and the Taliban, according to leaked U.S. government documents.

The findings, detailed in a series of internal U.S. diplomatic cables spanning a period of several years, paint a stark picture of Washington's challenges in convincing key allies of the need to clamp down on terror funding, much of which is believed to stem from private donors in those nations.

But the cables, obtained and released by WikiLeaks, also offer a win-



► Hillary Rodham Clinton

dow into the delicate balancing act Gulf governments must perform in cracking down on extremist sympathizers while not running afoul of religious charitable duties and casting themselves as U.S. stooges before an increasingly skeptical populace.

"While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) takes seriously the threat of terrorism within Saudi Arabia, it has been an

ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority," reads a December 2009 memo from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The cable said that while the kingdom has begun to "make important progress on this front, ... donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide."

Saudi Arabia, the homeland of most of the Sept. 11 hijackers, has repeatedly come under fire from the U.S. for its sluggish response to cracking down on terror financing. It has also been criticized for its reluctance to confront the fiery rhetoric espoused by some of its hardline clerics which is seen as either directly or indirectly fueling extremism.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Seeing. Red



► Skiers and snowboarders dressed as Santa ride up a ski lift yesterday.

JOEL PAGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Trading sleigh for board

As part of the 11th annual Santa Sunday at Sunday River in Newry, Maine, participants get free lift tickets if they wear Santa hats, jackets, pants and beards and donate \$10 or more to the Bethel Rotary Club's annual toy drive.

## The final combat push?

NATO and Afghan forces are on the move in western Kandahar in what could be one of the last big pushes involving Canadian troops before the combat mission ends next summer.

A large combined assault group of Canadian, American and Afghan troops are headed into a longstanding Taliban redoubt, a restive area known as the Horn of Panjwari.

The arid patch of farmland has been fought over for years; taken, retaken several times and abandoned as coalition forces struggled to hold the region with only a few thousand soldiers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Region's past

The region's troops are pushing towards what was the focus of a scorched-earth policy by the Soviets in the 1980s.

► Thousands of families were forced to flee their homes, many never returned.

# Iran claims to have nuclear ingredients

Iran claimed yesterday it could now use domestically mined uranium to produce nuclear fuel, giving the country complete control over a process the West suspects is geared toward producing weapons.

Tehran made the claim a day before a new round of nuclear talks with world powers that want to rein in Iran's uranium enrichment

— a process that can be used either to make fuel for nuclear energy or nuclear weapons.

The nuclear chief said Iran had for the first time delivered domestically mined raw uranium to a processing facility — allowing it to bypass United Nations' sanctions prohibiting import of the material. Four rounds of UN sanctions



► Iran's atomic chief Ali Akbar Salehi

have targeted Iran's uranium enrichment program.

Nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi said the uranium ore concentrate, known as yellowcake, was produced at the Gachin uranium mine in southern Iran and delivered to the uranium conversion facility in the central city of Isfahan for reprocessing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Fear of the bomb

Uranium enriched to low grades is used for fuel in nuclear reactors.

► Further enrichment makes it suitable for atomic bombs, which the U.S. and some of its allies accuse Iran of doing.



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# OUR RICHEST CLEARLY NEED THE MONEY

## Urban Compass

STEPHEN  
KIMBER



**Last week, news reports about three economic reports thudded into my electronic in-basket.**

**T**he first had to do with Canadian Business Magazine's The Rich List, an annual compilation of who's-worth-how-astronomically-much this week.

Toronto's Thomson family topped the list again with a net worth of \$23.36 billion — yes, billion!

As allnovascotia.com noted proudly, Maritime titans were well represented. Eleven regionally based or connected masters of the universe made the top 100. Most did even better than the year before: The Sobey family's net worth jumped 27.7 per

cent to \$2.14 billion, for example, while the divided McCains upped their fortunes by 13 per cent to \$2.6 billion (Harrison's branch) and 18.7 per cent to \$2.29 billion (Wallace, godfather). Even the Irvings, who fell from second to third place, increased their net worth by 2.5 per cent to \$7.46 billion.

Steve Maich, the magazine's editor, told allnovascotia.com "there's a hugely under-appreciated entrepreneurial culture in Atlantic Canada."

Perhaps.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives also released a re-

port last week showing that, as the Globe and Mail put it, "the gains from growth are increasingly concentrated in the hands of the rich."

**"On the flip side, the report notes Canada's top tax rate in 2007 was half what it was in 1948 — and been reduced since."**

According to the study, the richest one per cent of Canadians gobbled up 32 per cent of all income earned from economic growth between 1997 and 2007, and now account for 14 per cent of all personal income, "a bigger cut of the action than any previous genera-

tion."

On the flip side, the report notes Canada's top tax rate in 2007 was half what it was in

1948 — and been reduced since. Uh...

The third thud came from the Fraser Institute's latest survey of Canada's "leading" investment managers on factors they claim create a "positive investment climate." Perhaps not surprisingly, investment managers favour even lower corporate and personal income tax rates to benefit their clients ... if not the middle class or the public interest.

Ironically, on the same day all-novascotia.com reported so favourably on The Rich List, it lamented Nova Scotia ranked ninth on the Fraser Institute's list and "dead last" for taxing business profits.

It's clearly time we put more money into the hands of our province's richest. They need the cash.

## Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



# Spending with confidence

## Letters & Tweets

*We asked: Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working?*

**TORONTO.** I think the stimulus plan is working because people are spending more money than last year for Christmas. The strong currency shows recovery from the recession and it makes people spend with confidence.

KAZUKO MATAKE

**TORONTO.** I think the economic stimulus plan is working. Though the Canadian unemployment rate rose, it's going down compared to the past, according to data.

YUKI MIZUBAYASHI

## Signs of the times



**TORONTO.** According to research, Canada has been doing well and the unemployment rate is decreasing. As we can see from the TSX or unemployment rate, the economy is doing well.

SEUNGGO CHOI

**MEXICO CITY.** I think it is working because the unemployment rate is

decreasing every month compared to other years, so I think this is happening as a result of all the stimulus that the government is providing. The only thing that I would like to know is the exact statistics on how much the stimulus spending specifically is increasing economic activity.

ARIADNA SOLIS

**Has WikiLeaks impacted your view of politics?**

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## Metro Minute at the dinner theatre

Don't expect the same old sombre Charles Dickens' tale at the Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre. They're putting on A Christmas Carol-Get Scrooged as their holiday offering this year.

The theatre said it "features old Scrooge and all the gang you've come to know over the years in a rollicking tribute to the Dickens classic tale with a

twist." There are some seats left for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night shows until Dec. 22.

The show is a two-act musical comedy, with audience interaction and a three-course meal.

Halifax Feast is located in the Maritime Centre at the corner of Barrington and Salter streets.

● METRO



► Halifax Feast Dinner Theatre has limited seating left on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings to Dec. 22. For reservations, call: 420-1840.

# Canadian space port proposed

► Muslim astrophysicist wants to see launch facility completed by 2015

The head of the Muhammad Institute for Space Science, dedicated to putting the Islamic world back at the forefront of scientific discovery, wants to build a space-launch facility in Canada.

Redouane Al Fakir's goal has been to return Muslims to the place of pride they held, centuries ago, as world leaders in astronomy.

But the Vancouver astrophysicist wants all Canadians to be involved in his project. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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## Sweets. Return



► World-renowned chocolatier Bernard Callebaut

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Callebaut twice as sweet

Famed-but-failed Calgary chocolatier Bernard Callebaut is attempting to rebuild his empire with a new sweets company this week. His chief competitor is the company he founded 27 years ago that bears his name.

## Wind energy in need of tax breaks: Analysts

Recent growth in wind energy projects in Canada could be undermined if a big federal tax break is not renewed when it expires next spring, industry watchers say.

After a shot in the arm for the industry last week, when Ontario announced more than 600 direct jobs would be created with the opening of two new wind turbine parts factories next year, the sector's main lobby group hopes that incen-

**1% Federal program gives companies one per cent per kilowatt hour as incentive for renewable energy projects.**

tives for the industry will continue to flow.

They're concerned because the \$1.48-billion federal ecoENERGY for Renewable Power program, which gives companies one cent per kilowatt hour as an incentive for renewable energy projects, is set to end in March.

The Canadian Wind Energy Association has lobbied the federal government to extend the incentive program past the March deadline.

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2  
scene

## Law &amp; Order



Academy Award-winner Jeremy Irons is dropping into Law & Order: Special Victims Unit to guest star as a sex therapist. A spokeswoman for the NBC crime drama said Friday that Irons' character runs a sex addiction clinic in the episode to be filmed later this month. It's set to air in early 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Katy Perry performs onstage at the VH1 Divas Salute the Troops in San Diego.

# Saluting the troops

► Perry reigns as VH1 Divas pay homage to U.S. service men and women

Katy Perry loves a man in a uniform.

The pop superstar met dozens of service members while working on the special VH1 Divas Salute the Troops this weekend near San Diego.

"There was a kid who I met backstage who was rather chatty, but adorable," Perry recalled. "He was really sweet. He was 19. He had such a good heart. He said, 'Yes, ma'am' to me. 'Yes ma'am!' I was like, 'OK! Yes, sir!'"

A VH1 publicist estimated an audience of 27,000 attended the nearly three-hour taping of the concert Friday night at the Marine Corps Air Station in Mira-

mar. The show, which aired last night, featured a bounty of what the network has dubbed divas — female or female-lead musical acts, including established stars such as Heart, Paramore and Sugarland, as well as hot newcomers Grace Potter and The Nocturnals, Keri Hilson and Nicki Minaj. But if one diva emerged supreme, it was Perry, who both opened and closed the show, and performed solo or with others on a half-dozen songs — twice that of anyone else in the lineup.

"I really had to live up to the definition of a 'diva' in all senses of the word," Perry joked.

**"I really had to live up to the definition of a 'diva' in all senses of the word. So I had to be very difficult today, and late."**

KATY PERRY

"So I had to be very difficult today, and late," she continued, adding that she was really neither.

Perry went on to reference Beyoncé's song Diva, then proceeded to lose the lyric.

"Blaaah! Obviously I'm not Beyoncé," Perry laughed. "She is the true diva."

Onstage, Perry pulled out the stops — and the costumes — with the opening number featuring Perry, Hilson and Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles in WAC uniforms for a cover of The Andrews Sisters' '40s classic Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. Perry closed the show with her current smash Firework, which concluded, appropriately, with a fireworks display.

For that finale, Perry wore a cherry-red beaded gown with thigh-high slit that looked as if it was borrowed from Jessica Rabbit's closet. "You know me, I love vintage," Perry explained. "I love pin-up girls."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Happy couple

Perry, 26, and her new husband, actor Russell Brand, will be spending their first holiday season together as husband and wife.

► **Quoted:** "What do I want for Christmas? Well, I think what is appropriate now is, I hope the troops come home very safely," Perry replied.

► **Her message to troops:** "Keep your Skype and your iChat on because I know some of them are away from all their family and wives. I can understand that feeling every once in awhile because I am on the battlefield myself, but I am just singing pop songs."



When the curtain falls: Show biz life dim for neither rich nor famous songstress in Las Vegas

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09

# Film Eclipses Slade's resumé

- Master of the disturbing drama takes a lighter turn with *Twilight*
- Eclipse DVD now on shelves



British director David Slade has two brooding thrillers under his belt in *Hard Candy* and *30 Days of Night* that never would have suggested his next feature would be the latest entry in the bubblegum teen romance series *Twilight*.

For Slade, *Eclipse* was such a gear change from his previous work that he couldn't resist.

"It's not very often that

## Director's dish

David Slade on gently mocking *Twilight* with *Eclipse*

► "I think having written the first two movies Melissa Rosenberg felt at this point that she had the liberty to poke fun at certain things in the franchise and I applauded it. The actors did too. Nobody was offended. The series has matured enough for everyone to have a good laugh at the fact that Taylor doesn't have a shirt on or whatever it may be. There were certain other things that I felt we could make fun of, but we never really had the chance."

someone is going to offer a romantic fantasy to a director who has done a thriller in which a woman takes revenge on a pedophile and another in which literal monsters take nihilism to a social order," Slade told Metro.

"I had to take it because doing different things is how we learn and grow. But yeah, it's an odd one. I wouldn't have hired me."

Though Slade embraced the lovingly cheesy romance that has turned teenage girls and, mysteriously, middle-aged women into giggling *Twilight* devotees, the director was also the first to follow through on the horror aspects of the series that involves vampires and werewolves in addition to shirtless romantic pining.

"The horror aspects were all there in the script and I just followed through on them with my instincts," explained Slade. "If anything the producers actually started saying, 'maybe you should take this a bit further,' but I wasn't making *Hard Candy*. I was definitely making *Eclipse*. It was all about tone and tension. We thought we were better served by that rather than having people ripped in half."

The filmmaker may have added a dark edge to



► From left to right, Alex Meraz, Booboo Stewart, Nikki Reed, David Slade, Kellan Lutz, Ashley Greene and Xavier Samuel attend the gala premiere of *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* last July.

*Eclipse* that fans appreciated, but Slade is quick to acknowledge that the overall strength of the film still

lies in the source material. "The thing is that the story is great so there wasn't really any need to devi-

ate that much from it anyway," admitted Slade. "In terms of dialing up the tension and improving the

aesthetic of the special effects, any director coming in would have done the same."

# GLAAD making inroads

- Report shows gay, bisexual characters on TV being better represented

GLAAD is happy to be turning 25 years old.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation celebrated its anniversary Friday night with a swanky cocktail party at the Harmony Gold Theatre in Los Angeles. Chaz Bono, Jean Smart, Amber Heard and Ed Begley Jr. were among the celebrity attendees who toasted the group, which focuses on how lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks are presented in the media.

"We've made great progress in these media capitol," said Jarrett Barrios, president of GLAAD. "Beyond Hollywood, beyond New York, between these blue states, right at this nation's red centre,

**"Beyond Hollywood, beyond New York, between these blue states, right at this nation's red centre, we have miles to go. How far do we still have to go to ensure that an environment of respect exists for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?"**

JARRETT BARRIOS, PRESIDENT OF GLAAD

we have miles to go. How far do we still have to go to ensure that an environment of respect exists for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?"

GLAAD was first formed in 1985 in New York to protest the New York Post's coverage of AIDS.

The organization went on to push for several changes throughout the media, such as the inclu-

sion of a same-sex couple on the viewer-voted wedding contest on NBC's *Today* show and modifications to how gays are referred to in *The Associated Press Stylebook*.

The group now annually holds the GLAAD Media Awards, which actor Steven Weber called the "gayer Oscars," and releases the *Where We Are* on TV report, which tracks

LGBT characters on network shows.

This year's report found that there were 23 gay and bisexual characters on scripted network TV out of a total of 600, up 3 per cent from last season's shows.

"The steady stream of negative portrayals and censorship of gay and lesbian lives on film and in television has given way to much more realistic and life-affirming depictions, such as this year's *The Kids Are All Right* and TV's *Glee*," said Richard Jennings, a former president of GLAAD who received the first-ever Founders' Award at the event this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Chaz Bono poses at the premiere of the film *Burlesque* in Los Angeles.





# "ECLIPSE IS THE BEST TWILIGHT"

10

metrodish

## No plans to tie the knot: Depp

► Actor doesn't foresee marriage with Vanessa Paradis

After 12 years together and having two children, Johnny Depp says he and Vanessa Paradis are still perfectly happy and have no plans to tie the knot.

"I never found myself needing that piece of paper," he tells Extra.

"Marriage is really from soul to soul, heart to heart. You don't need somebody to say, 'OK, you're married.'"

And while he says he'd do the ceremony at the drop of a hat if Paradis wanted, he'd be too "scared of ruining her last name. She's got such a good last name." ● METRO



► Johnny Depp and Vanessa Paradis on the red carpet.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## More audio drama for Britney



► Britney Spears

Britney Spears' ex-husband Jason Alexander has another audio recording that purports to feature the pop singer talking about smoking marijuana, according to Radar Online.

"You know I got the best pot in California if you really want to smoke," Spears reportedly tells

Alexander on the recording.

Spears is already fighting reports about an earlier recording of Alexander's that he says features Spears admitting current boyfriend Jason Trawick is abusive.

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## Transformers star reportedly booted off plane

Josh Duhamel was reportedly escorted off a plane in New York over the weekend when he refused to turn off his BlackBerry before takeoff, according to TMZ.

A passenger from the flight says the Transformers star was "very rude" and "taunting the attendant" who asked him to cooperate.

The plane had to return to the gate so airline representatives could remove him. Duhamel's reps say, "He's sorry." **METRO**

### Celebrity tweets



**Steve Martin**  
[@SteveMartinToGo]  
I am splitting up with Eva Longoria.



**Joel McHale**  
[@joelmchale] Although he has yet to join Twitter, you can still contact Chevy Chase via the Ellsworth County



**Neil Patrick Harris**  
[@ActuallyNPH] I just got a call from the People's Choice people. I'm in dead last place. Fewer vote than the movie Salt...



**Paris Hilton**  
[@parishilton] Love the Life You Live.



## Sarah Jessica Parker on getting older

▶ Actress compares aging to 'those flowers that wilt in front of you in time-lapse films'

Sarah Jessica Parker admits that getting older isn't easy, but she's trying to take it as

gracefully as possible. "I don't know what I can do about the aging," she tells Elle magazine. "Yes, I am aging. Oh my God, I'm aging all the time. "It's like those flowers that wilt in front of you in time-lapse films. But what can I possibly do? Look like a lunatic?" **METRO**



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# 3

life

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layers of  
carnation, pepper-  
corn and clove;  
the7virtues.com.


**METRO**

## Toms Shoes gives away a million shoes; takes aim at combating diseases

► A youngster's eager pleas for the trendiest toys this time of year might be best followed by the question, 'What about others?'



► No matter how a family chooses to honour the season, it is an optimal time to teach young people the value of giving back.

Help them give a gift that  
**keeps giving**



**JESSICA LEWIS**  
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

This holiday season many families are taking part in charitable gift giving to countries in need. Whether it's donating an animal to another family on the other side of the world to provide food or for breeding, or materials that might help to fund an education for a child, the act is not only helpful to the one who receives it, but to who gives it as well.

**“Our kids learn from what we do, so a lot of it is making it part of our family culture.”** PARENTING EXPERT ALYSON SHAFER ON GIVING BACK

## PARENTING EXPERT ALYSON SHAFER ON GIVING BACK

The holidays serve as the perfect time to teach children the importance of giving.

"Our kids learn from what we do, so a lot of it is just modeling it and making it part of our family culture," says Alyson Shafer, a parenting expert, author and host of *The Parenting Show*.

Shafer suggests that parents might also introduce the gift of giving if they're worrying about their children's selfishness. "When kids are saying 'I want a Wii! I want a Nintendo! I want a bike!' Parents might like to say, 'What about others?'"

Shafer donates to charities in her children's

names every year, looking for something fun and easy for them to understand. Last year, she donated chickens, and a card under her Christmas tree was enough to make her children happy for the cause. Shafer also asks that she has a gift donated in her name from them.

If you're looking to engage your family in charitable gift giving this month, there are plenty of outlets.

Free the Children, Canada's Most Meaningful Gifts, Gifts That Matter. Unicef.

Heifer, Oxfam and Plan Canada are some that offer animals, healthcare, education and shelter. More targeted organizations include WaterCan's Gifts of Water, the David Suzuki Foundation and World Wildlife Fund.

Plan Canada did a survey of 1,000 Canadians in October and November, finding that 89 per cent believe that it's important for children to learn to help others and 59 per cent use the holidays as a time to acknowledge such.



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News worth sharing



# Just use your imagination

► With these savoury scones, there is no limit to the toppings and fillings you can add

CONTRIBUTED



► Savoury Scones can be made ahead, ready to pop in the oven for your guests.

Walnuts and thyme add a distinctive holiday flavour to these fluffy, buttery scones.

The dough can be prepared a day ahead and kept in the refrigerator.

All you have to do is pop them in the oven when your guests arrive and serve with your favourite fillings or toppings.

## Savoury Scones

### Preparation:

**1** Preheat oven to 190 C (375 F). In a large bowl, whisk together flour, walnuts, sugar, baking powder, salt, thyme and pepper.

**2** Using a coarse cheese grater, grate frozen butter directly into dry ingredients, stirring occasionally to prevent butter from sticking together.

**3** Pour milk into mixture and stir gently with a wooden spoon until mixture just comes together to form dough. Turn dough over a few times to gather up any remaining bits of flour. Dough should not be sticky. If it is, add a bit more flour.

**4** Transfer dough to a floured cutting board and divide into 4 equal pieces. Working quickly, using your hands, shape each piece into a round flat disk, about 2 cm (3/4 inch) thick. Cut each disk into 8 even-sized wedges. Arrange on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush tops with milk. Sprinkle with finely chopped walnuts.

**5** Bake for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Transfer to a wire rack

### Ingredients:

- 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour (approx)
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) walnuts, finely chopped
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) dried thyme
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground black pepper
- 125 g (1/4 lb) frozen butter (1 stick)
- 250 ml (1 cup) whole milk
- Finely chopped walnuts, for garnish

and let cool slightly. Gently pull tops off the scones or cut horizontally. Fill with desired fillings or top each half with desired toppings. Makes 32 scones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Filling/Topping Ideas:

#### Cranberry and Brie

Fill or top scones with a dollop of cranberry sauce, thinly sliced brie and fresh watercress or baby arugula.

#### Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese

Fill scones with room-temperature cream cheese, finely chopped red onion or finely chopped cherry tomato, thinly sliced smoked salmon and a sprig of fresh dill.

#### Apple, Sage and Goat Cheese Filling

Fill or top scones with thinly sliced green apple (skin on, dipped in lemon juice to prevent browning), softened goat cheese and a fresh sage leaf.



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# Halt climate change with your keyboard

► **Computer gamers take on a new battle: saving Earth from climate change** ► **Fate of the World leaves 200 years to save or wreck the planet**



**JAMES  
WILKINSON**

In most video games, "saving the Earth" means fighting off an alien invasion. But *Fate of the World*, the upcoming eco-conscious game from UK developers Red Redemption, has other ideas.

In this new strategy game, players are given 200 years to stop severe global warming by any means, from alternative energy sources, making policy decisions to destroying countries.

Game director Matt Miles Griffiths warns of drastic consequences: "Computer gamers might think that wiping out the

U.S. would solve some problems, but the loss of food production alone will

send the world's economy into a tailspin. And you run the risk of being tried

as a war criminal..."

Based on scientific data, the PC game – to be released February 2011 – shows how the world's economic, environmental and political problems are interlinked. But it's not a dry textbook. Here are four crazy yet possible scenarios:

## Melt the world

Microscopic nano-robots might be cute, but take care they don't replicate to make "red goo," which breaks down everything it touches at a molecular level, then spreads and spreads...

## Relive The Terminator

"AI can lead to machines that despise humanity," Griffiths says. But there's a bright side: "Fusion-powered Terminators are actually quite environmentally friendly."

## Freeze the Earth

"You can fire particles into the atmosphere to reduce the effect of the sun," explains creative director Ian Roberts. "But if you go too far you can create a new ice age."

## Create a genetic disaster

"Genetic manipulation allows you to adapt plants or animals for survival," says Roberts.

"But you run the risk of creating terrible, incurable diseases."



► The eco-conscious game is based on scientific data from NASA and the United Nations.



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**Question: What's the deal with soap nuts? I love that I can avoid plastic packaging by using them, but what are they actually made of? Are they natural and biodegradable? Or are they just condensed detergent?**  
Julie from  
Calgary, Alberta

All you do is add four or five of them, in a small cloth bag, to a load of dirty laundry. You can reuse that pouch of soap nuts for a few loads.

My favourite solution for eco-friendly laundry soap is making my own liquid version from borax, washing soda and soap granules.

See my recipe and complete do-it-yourself video at [davidsuzuki.org](http://davidsuzuki.org). It only takes about 20 minutes to make a batch that will last you about a month and cost only a dollar a litre.

I prefer the liquid recipe to powdered versions because it works well in cold water, saving even more money on utility bills.

Another tip is to add about half a cup of baking soda to boost your whites instead of chlorine bleach.

Don't think you have the DIY gene in you?

Shop for plant-based, biodegradable laundry soap without synthetic chemical fragrances and wash your laundry in cold water!



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# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN

## TurningPoint

### TERESA KRUZE

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**"If I can reach people who have given up, I want to tell them to step back into it with everything they've got. Just go out there and do it."**

RENEE BARDA

RICHARD FREEDMAN

**R**enee Baroda gave up a promising singing career to

get married. Now in the second act of her life, Renee is proving it's never too late to start over again.

Her talent was noticed at a young age but on the eve of an important audition at Covent Garden in London, England, Renee decided to give up her career, get married and start a family.

Once she made her decision, Renee silenced her beautiful voice and didn't sing a note for 30 years.

In 2003, Renee found herself at another crossroads in life.

After a long illness her husband had passed away and her sons were now starting families of their own. "Whatever happened to your voice?" someone asked her. "You never did anything with it."

The next day Renee stepped into the shower and as the water coursed down her face, she began to sing.

Renee sang of lost love and of life and family. She started to cry. Her voice had not let her down; it had been there all along, just waiting for her to bring it back to life.

Renee made a triumphant return to the stage. "When I finished, the whole audience stood up and many were yelling, 'Bravo.'" Renee now has a new purpose in life.

"I have a big vision to inspire the world with my voice and my story. If I can reach people who have given up, I want to tell them to step back into it with everything they've got. Just go out there and do it. It doesn't matter what age you are."

Follow Renee's lead and dust off that old passion. Make it a turning point for you.



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# Don't axe the office party

► Experts say companies should honour staff at holidays, not cancel festivities — despite tough times

The Royal Family may be toasting the impending nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton, but it's decidedly less festive for Buckingham Palace staffers heading into the holidays.

The Queen decided to cancel the annual Christmas fete because of "difficult financial circumstances" facing the nation.

It's been a similar story for some companies on this side of the Atlantic that either scaled back or axed holiday parties in recent years.

Pam McCarthy, owner of Five Star Events in Calgary, said those who cancelled their parties in 2009 either aren't having one this year or are forging ahead on a smaller scale.

"Instead of having a full-blown party, they'll have a cocktail hour after work for the staff only," she said. "They'll bring in hors d'oeuvres and not have a big dinner for the staff plus the guests."

Tiff Daniels is director of sales with Canadian Outback Adventures and Events in Vancouver. The company designs and produces team-building initiatives and experiential learning events.

Daniels recalled that in 2008, some companies cancelled events even though they'd paid in

**"If you're already worried about your company's financial status, cancelling the party kind of sends a doom-and-gloom message."**

PETER HARRIS, WORKOPOLIS

full because they were part of a larger organization that didn't want one division having a party while others hadn't booked anything — and now couldn't have one.

Things have turned around since then, but celebrations aren't quite as lavish.

In the past, a national company may have flown in people from satellite offices. Daniels said that now, to save money on flights and hotels, businesses will host smaller celebrations or meetings in each major city centre.

Overall, Daniels said most companies they're aware of will have some form of celebration for their workers.

"I think people realize after not doing any team-building events, or meetings or incentives for a good year or so, that that was affecting morale at various companies, and they realized that this was im-



► Companies can scale back on parties while still retaining the spirit of the event.

portant to the productivity of their staff."

Although the country is no longer in the grip of a recession, it hasn't been an easy year for some companies, and hiring isn't back to what it was, said Peter Harris, Workopolis content manager.

"A lot of companies are still feeling like now is not the time to throw a big, lavish party, but it is important for employee morale that something does happen. That's my theory."

A recent online poll conducted by Workopolis between Nov. 26 and Dec. 1

asked respondents whether it was important to them that their company hold a holiday party. Among more than 2,400 people, 71 per cent thought it was important or somewhat important that businesses hold a festive event.

Harris said they would recommend employers not cut out the holiday party completely if they can afford to offer some form of recognition to their workers.

From baby showers to birthday celebrations to passing around a condo-

lence card when a colleague suffers a loss, all are ways of connecting with one another at work, said Piers Steel, associate professor of human resources and organizational dynamics at the University of Calgary.

Steel said this is a big way of improving the quality of work — whether you enjoy it or not — as well as encouraging co-operative behaviour on the job and looking out for each other.

Companies can still scale back on parties while retaining the spirit of the event, he noted.

"Really, you just need a venue, you need a little bit of food. You just have to be able to sincerely want to do some type of celebration," said Steel. "It doesn't have to be incredibly expensive for people to appreciate it."

Steel said he strongly recommends managers use a holiday party as an opportunity to recount the year, including all the victories that have been won and good things that have been happening, in addition to sharing hopes for the holiday season.

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# Nats land Werth

► Phillies star joins Washington for seven-year, \$126-million contract

Some general managers had just arrived at the winter meetings and some were not even at the winter meetings yet when the Washington Nationals made a startling announcement yesterday evening: They had agreed with right fielder Jayson Werth on a \$126 million US, seven-year contract.

"I thought they were trying to reduce the deficit in Washington," new Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

The 31-year-old Werth, who helped the Phillies win the 2008 World Series title, hit .296 this year in his fourth and final season with Philadelphia. He had an NL-high 46 doubles, 27

homers and 85 RBIs.

"To just spend money on people is not the point. What we're going to do is create an atmosphere ... of winning," Werth said on a conference call.

"I signed here to win, and I believe that we're going to win. It's going to be a challenge, it's going to take some time," he said.

Werth's contract matched the 12th-largest among current players, a huge deal for a player with only one all-star selection to his credit. And coming relatively early in the free-agent market, it could have a trickle-down for others seeking new deals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Impact players

Here's a look at some of the big names who were in play at baseball's winter meetings this weekend:



### Jayson Werth

The right-fielder has agreed to a \$126-million, seven-year contract with the Washington Nationals.



### Adrian Gonzalez

The all-star slugger's trade from San Diego to Boston may be off after a deadline to reach a deal passed.



### Cliff Lee

The pitching ace's decision on where to sign — likely with either the Rangers or Yankees — is expected this week.



### Derek Jeter

The Yankees finally reached an agreement with their shortstop on a three-year deal worth \$51-million US.



### Carl Crawford

Boston has the speedy outfielder on their radar as they look to revamp their lineup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## NFL in pictures

PHOTOS  
1. DARRON CUMMINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
2. ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES  
3. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES



**1** Peyton Manning had two interceptions returned for touchdowns yesterday and his fourth of the day set up David Buehler for a 38-yard field goal that gave Dallas a 38-35 victory in overtime.

**2** Drew Brees threw a three-yard touchdown pass to Marques Colston with 31 seconds left, rallying the New Orleans Saints to their fifth straight victory, 34-30 over the self-destructive Cincinnati Bengals.

**3** Jamaal Charles rushed for 116 yards and Matt Cassel threw a three-yard pass to Leonard Pope for the only touchdown, leading Kansas City to a ragged 10-6 victory over Denver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Shoulder injury clouds future for Favre's streak

Brett Favre has become something of a medical expert through the years, a quarterback who has minored in pain management as he has put together a streak of consecutive starts that stands among the most impressive records in all of sports.

Yet even a 41-year-old who has played 20 seasons in the league still can learn something new, and Favre is now faced with a pain and an injury that he's never felt before.

Favre sprained the sternoclavicular joint in his throwing shoulder after getting crunched by Bills linebacker Arthur Moats yesterday, an injury that leaves the Minnesota Vikings quarterback unsure of whether he will be able to start his 298th straight regular season game next week.

"If we were talking an-

**"Brett is going to push to play Sunday. You know the type of player he is."**

TARVARIS JACKSON,  
VIKINGS BACKUP QB

kles or elbows, thumbs or something like that, I would probably be a little more up to date on how to deal with it," Favre said after the Vikings beat the Bills, 38-14. "First time in 20 years I have ever done anything like that, so it is kind of surprising."

On the third play of the game yesterday, Moats came flying off the right edge and blindsided Favre just as he was about to throw a pass. The 250-pound linebacker flattened Favre, landing on top of him as he drove the quarterback into the turf.

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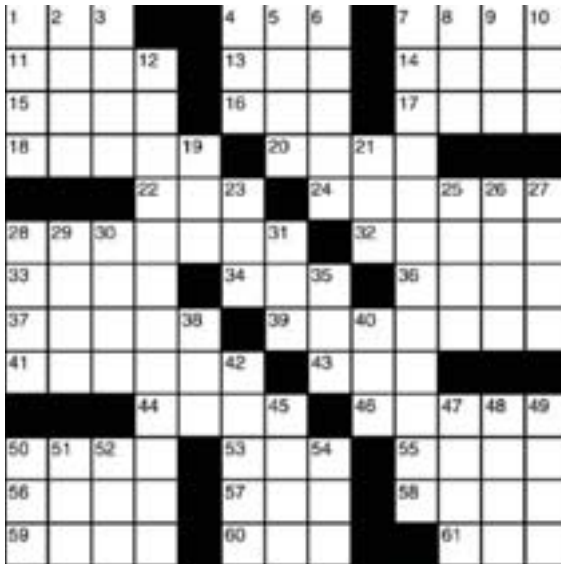
## Crossword

### Across

11 2-Down's network  
4 Upper limb  
7 Relaxation  
11 Historic periods  
13 Hawaiian neckwear  
14 Mid-month date  
15 Mischievous Norse god  
16 Remiss  
17 Capricorn critter  
18 Between, in verse  
20 Oodles  
22 Playground game  
24 Rowling's Harry  
28 Hedonistic fellow  
32 Entire  
33 Weaving device  
34 Lummox  
36 English river  
37 "Little Orphan —"  
39 Got ripe  
41 Quite small  
43 Tavern  
44 "Once — a time"  
46 Perfect  
50 Cushiony  
53 Youngster  
55 — Romeo (car)  
56 Leg joint  
57 — out a living  
58 Knitter's need  
59 Deviates off course  
60 Stitch  
61 Affirmative action?

### Down

1 Irishman, e.g.  
2 Forehead  
3 H.H. Munro pseudo-  
nym  
4 Every last bit  
5 Paper quantity  
6 Confusion  
7 9-to-5 shift, e.g.



8 Fuss  
9 Red or Black  
10 Superlative suffix  
12 Andy Rooney's show  
19 Bill  
21 Heifer's mom  
23 Sticky stuff  
25 Go sightseeing  
26 Otherwise  
27 Clarinet insert  
28 Troop grp.  
29 Unescorted  
30 Top-rated  
31 Sweet potato  
35 "Great!"  
38 Kreskin's claim  
40 Mai — (cocktail)  
42 Draft animals' join-  
ers  
45 Sneaker brand  
47 Verve  
48 Frizzy hairdo  
49 Settle to earth  
50 Firmament  
51 — budget  
52 Not many  
54 Morning moisture

► Yesterday's answer



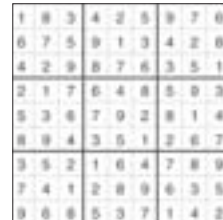
## Sudoku



## How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

► Yesterday's answer



## Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at [kiss@metronews.ca](mailto:kiss@metronews.ca)

Mumzey, after all those years, you are still my # one! Happy birthday. I C U.  
POPS

Bubba I know this past month isn't the greatest but I want you to know, I will always love you. I fell in love with you the day I met you and that love has only grown stronger. I'm sorry for whatever it is I've done. The only thing I want is my baby. Without you, I am nothing. I really love you babe, please take me back!  
YOUR BABBA, XOXO

To My Baby Love,  
Wishing for an angel to come down to me, and then I met you. You truly are the best girl I ever met and all the time we spent together I wouldn't trade for anything in the world. You mean everything to me and I'd do anything for you, in short I just want to tell you I love you babes <3  
YOUR NERD ROBERTO B :P

## Today's horoscope

**♈ Aries March 21-April 20**  
With Mercury linked to Pluto today it may feel as if others have the upper hand, but that need not be the case. Your sense of powerlessness is largely in your mind.

**♉ Taurus April 21-May**  
The planets will cause a conflict with someone you care about today. That may not sound like good news but deep down you know it is time to bring certain issues into the open.

**♊ Gemini May 22-June 21**  
The pressure has been building for quite some time and at some stage today it will reach boiling point. Whatever life throws at you over the next 24 hours just pick it up and throw it back.

**♋ Cancer June 22-July 22**  
You can be somewhat stubborn when the mood takes you and with mind plant Mercury close to Pluto in your opposite sign you won't give way on anything today, no matter how petty or small.

**♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23**  
No amount of compromise will solve the stalemate you find yourself in today, so all you can do is fight for what you believe and hope you come out on top.

**♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22**  
Different people see things in different ways and if you can accept that today you won't have too many problems, either at home or at work. You may not like what some peo-

ple believe in but agree to disagree anyway.

**♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
You must keep a sense of perspective today, especially where domestic issues are concerned, because if you allow annoying situations to get under your skin you may say or do something that makes things worse.

**♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
You are sure to be assertive and ambitious today but don't come on so strong that you put people off.

**♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21**  
A money-making opportunity will come at you out of the blue today and hopefully you won't be too shocked to take advantage of it.

**♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
Don't go back on a promise you made to a friend or loved one because you'll regret it if you do. Live up to your obligations.

**♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
What happens today may shock you a bit but you should have seen it coming. On the other hand it's unlikely to be as bad as it first looks.

**♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20**  
You will finally discover what has been going on today and it won't be anywhere near as dreadful as you had imagined.

● SALLY BROMPTON

## Caption contest



**WIN! You write it!**

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to [play@metronews.ca](mailto:play@metronews.ca) — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



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